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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Robert C. Tucker EXAMINER: Jordan Marc Schwartz

APPLICATION NO: 09/879,013 ART UNIT: 2873

FILED: June 12, 2001

FOR: PRINTING COLORED CONTACT LENSES

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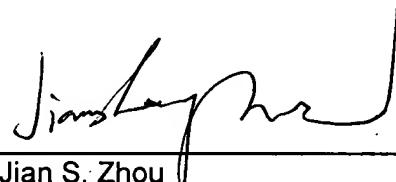
ELECTION

Dear Sir:

The Office Action dated June 6, 2003 from Examiner Jordan Marc Schwartz of Art Unit 2873 has been received and reviewed. In response to the Examiner's requirement for election of one of the patentably distinct species: Group Ia (Claims 1 –16 and 50-58), Group Ib (18-21 and 25), Group Ic (claims 22 and 40), Group Id (claims 23 and 42), Group Ie (claims 26 and 28-30), Group IF (claims 31-32 and Group Ig (claims 33-38), Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the species of Group Ia for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



Jian S. Zhou
Reg. No. 41,422
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Date: 06/19/2003

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